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UM rodeo team opens 1980 season

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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "UM rodeo team opens 1980 season" (1980). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 31151.
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MISSOULA--

UM RODEO TEAM
OPENS 1980 SEASON

The University of Montana rodeo team kicks off its 1980 season this Thursday, April 17, when it goes up against the Big Sky Region powerhouse Montana State.

MSU is hosting the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association rodeo which begins April 17 in the MSU fieldhouse. The finals are April 19.

This season UM will compete at seven Big Sky rodeos with a four-member men's team and a four-member women's team. Several veterans from last year's women's squad will compete this year, and the UM women are expected to be one of the better teams in the region.

Shelly Rennaker, who competes in all three women's events (goat tying, barrel racing and breakaway roping) is a top prospect for the national collegiate finals rodeo, to be held in Bozeman in June.

In addition to Rennaker, Joan Nell, Leslie Goldman and LuAnn Ardisson round out a talented women's team.

The men's team features Scott Hagel, a bareback bronc and bull rider who has shown incredible potential in team practices this spring. Mark Ice will draw up in the bareback bronc riding and John Frederichs will compete in bareback bronc and saddle bronc riding. Randy Kuiper, a bull rider, rounds out the men's squad.

(over)

UM RODEO TEAM--add one

UM hosts its annual NIRA rodeo Memorial Day weekend, May 24-26, at Lolo Hot Springs resort. Gov. Thomas Judge has proclaimed the week preceding the Memorial weekend Intercollegiate Rodeo Week in Montana, and with professional stock contractor Reg Kesler supplying the broncs and "man-eating" bulls, rodeo fans can look forward to a full weekend of action.

The UM rodeo team pays dues to the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association and competes only at rodeos sanctioned by the NIRA. The team is funded by ASUM, donations from some area businesses, and various fund-raising projects.

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